

CAPITOL STUFF

By JERRY GREENE

Washington, Aug. 16—The potency of a little-known new peace built around 82 members of Congress is going to force President Nixon to interrupt his vacation for reentry into the Senate brawl over \$20 billion in military spending.

The urgency of the situation won't permit the President to wait. He is getting the word this weekend that White House pressure is sorely needed now by establishment senators in defense against a carefully planned attack on the traditional committee system of moving legislation.

Pentagon's Greatest Peril Is in Congress

Backers of the military procurement authorization bill, now held over for final action after the congressional recess, believe that only presidential intervention behind the scenes can stave off a situation at the Pentagon which could be ruinous to Nixon's own initial administration plan for fiscal 1971.

plans for reduction and reorganization of national defenses. The Nixon program won't be ready until January.

The White House and establishment senators had, until this week, woefully underestimated the power and skill of the new Senate-House lobby now driving to lop great gobs of money off the Pentagon budget—and add the sums to social programs.

The lobby bears the improbable name of Members of Congress for Peace Through Law. Rep. F. Bradford Morse (R-Mass.) is the chairman; Sen. George S. McGovern (D-S.D.) is vice chairman. Morse tells us he has 23 senators and the remainder of his outfit are members of the House. The group has an office with three staff members in a Capitol Hill apartment and Morse said he has raised the \$35,000 per year expense fund through letters of solicitation to "a selected list."

Former Sen. Joseph S. Clark (D-Pa.) started this Peace Through Law combine as a luncheon gathering; Morse took over this year and got real energetic. He named five subcommittees, and these began preparing reports to rally legislative support for assorted objectives. We asked Morse what he was really after.

"Just looking for a better world," he said. "It's that simple."

It isn't that simple, of course. The combine is zeroing in on the operations of standing committees of congress — and the established processes—with deadly effect.

The effectiveness can be gauged by the bitter lament of Sen. John C. Stennis (D-Miss.), chairman of the Armed Services Committee and of its preparedness subcommittee, in debate this week: "It is tragic to me to see all the work that has been done by this subcommittee slashed to pieces..."



Rep. F. Bradford Morse
Defense \$\$ the target

Committee Seeks \$3B Defense Cut

What happened was that Morse named Sen. Mark O. Hatfield (R-Ore.) chairman of the Peace Through Law committee of military spending. The Hatfield committee spent a fast two months studying national defense and announced that \$3 billion should be cut from the \$20 billion authorization.

The Hatfield rump committee named nine targets in its report—Nixon's Safeguard ABM was only one of them—and these are the focal points in the drive to smash down the Stennis committee recommendations and force spending cuts, through amendments. Pending before the Senate at recess was an amendment to strike \$377 million for a new nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

There isn't much question that the \$80 billion Pentagon budget needs a lot of water drained out of it. Nixon already had slashed first estimates; the House will knock off another \$5 billion through its Appropriations Committee. More billions will fall in Nixon's initial administration plan for fiscal 1971.

Revolt of the Admirals Is Updated

But this cutting will be done by experts and not in the slapdash emotional approach being used by the Morse-Hatfield lobby, which has shown scant evidence of thoughtful study based on the requirements of foreign policy. A thick report put out by the Hatfield committee last month was packed with unsubstantiated claims and ridiculous arguments tossed into the ash can during the absurd "revolt of the admirals" probed by the House 20 years ago. Only the names and the dates were changed, no doubt to protect the innocent.

Stennis and his committee, with years of experience and in full knowledge of the substantial changes the Nixon administration plans, are watching their efforts to retain balanced defenses go down the drain before a skillful operation. If the Morse-Hatfield drive is successful, Nixon will inherit a lopsided mess.

This is why presidential intervention is being requested and why it will be forthcoming, behind the scenes during the congressional recess and openly afterward if this seems necessary.

Explosive Precedent in the Making

For the Congress, the emergence of this bipartisan lobby within the ranks to challenge old-line committees and traditional processes is an event of significance not to be ignored. If it can happen to the military budget, it can happen to any other appropriation. The burdensome Agriculture Department spending bill is a juicy target.

This is lobbying carried to its highest level. During the battle over the ABM there were 103 organizations around the country involved in lobbying against approval. But none had the prestige, and the weight, of the Peace Through Law organization inside Congress itself. And here the dissidents found voice where it can be counted when the roll was called.

The phenomenon is receiving closest study in the highest political quarters, as well it might. It's a slick gimmick.

Members of Congress Who Supported the
Report on Defense Spending Prepared by the
Members of Congress for Peace Through
Law in 1969

SENATORS:

Eagleton, Thomas F. (D., Mo.)
Fulbright, J. W. (D., Ark.)
Goodell, Charles E. (R., N.Y.)
Hatfield, Mark O. (R., Oreg.)
Hughes, Harold E. (D., Iowa)
Mathias, Jr., Charles McC. (R., Md.)
McGovern, George S. (D., S.Dak.)
Metcalf, Lee (D., Mont.)
Mondale, Walter F. (D., Minn.)
Moss, Frank E. (D., Utah)
Nelson, Gaylord (D., Wis.)
Williams, Jr., Harrison A. (D., N.J.)
Young, Stephen M. (D., Ohio)

Kastenmeier, Robert W. (D., Wis.)
Koch, Edward I. (D., N.Y.)
Leggett, Robert L. (D., Calif.)
Lowenstein, Allard K. (D., N.Y.)
McCarthy, Richard D. (D., N.Y.)
Mikva, Abner J. (D., Ill.)
Mink, Patsy T. (D., Hawaii)
Moorhead, William S. (D., Pa.)
Morse, F. Bradford (R., Mass.)
Mosher, Charles A. (R., Ohio)
Ottinger, Richard L. (D., N.Y.)
Reid, Ogden R. (R., N.Y.)
Reuss, Henry S. (D., Wis.)
Rosenthal, Benjamin S. (D., N.Y.)
Roybal, Edward R. (D., Calif.)
St. Onge, William L. (D., Conn.)
Scheuer, James H. (D., N.Y.)
Thompson, Jr., Frank (D., N.J.)
Udall, Morris K. (D., Ariz.)
Whalen, Jr., Charles W. (R., Ohio)

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Cohelan, Jeffery (D., Calif.)
Conyers, Jr., John (D., Mich.)
Edwards, Don (D., Calif.)
Fraser, Donald M. (D., Minn.)
Gilbert, Jacob H. (D., N.Y.)
Gude, Gilbert (R., Md.)
Halpern, Seymour (R., N.Y.)
Hawkins, Augustus F. (D., Calif.)
Helstoski, Henry (D., N.J.)
Horton, Frank (R., N.Y.)

Known Members of Congress for Peace through Law

SENATORS:

Eagleton, Thomas F. (D., Mo.)
Fulbright, J.W. (D., Ark.)
Goodell, Charles E. (R., N.Y.)
Gravel, Mike (D., Alaska)
Hartke, Vance (D., Ind.)
Hatfield, Mark O. (R., Oreg.)
Hughes, Harold E. (D., Iowa)
Mathias, Jr., Charles McC. (R., Md.)
McGovern, George S. (D., S.Dak.)
Metcalf, Lee (D., Mont.)
Mondale, Walter F. (D., Minn.)
Moss, Frank E. (D., Utah)
Nelson, Gaylord (D., Wis.)
Proxmire, William (D., Wis.)
Williams, Jr., Harrison A. (D., N.J.)
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Cohelan, Jeffery (D., Calif.)
Conyers, Jr., John (D., Mich.)
Dellenback, John (R., Oreg.)
Edwards, Don (D., Calif.)
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Gilbert, Jacob H. (D., N.Y.)
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Scheuer, James H. (D., N.Y.)
Thompson, Jr., Frank (D., N.J.)
Tunney, John V. (D., Calif.)
Udall, Morris K. (D., Ariz.)
Whalen, Jr., Charles W. (R., Ohio)
Yates, Sidney R. (D., Ill.)